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THE RECORD FOR 1934 by ALFRED SUTRO, President

IN looking back over 1934, it is gratifying to be able to report satisfactory progress in the Club's affairs. This year marks the twenty-first in the Club's existence, and it reaches its majority at a time when great achievements are hardly to be expected.

If the Club had been able merely to hold its own during the past twelve months, carrying on its routine activities and preventing any shrinkage of its membership roll, its record would have been considered a good one. But it did much more. During the year, The California Mining Towns Series, begun in November 1933, was

brought to a successful conclusion. Gauged by the number of messages of approval received from members, this has been a decidedly popular and worth-while Club activity. Each member received a complete set of the series. A limited number of duplicate sets were offered to members at \$5.00 each, and all were taken. Meantime, plans have been completed for a new series, the distribution of which will begin in January 1935 and continue through the year. Elsewhere in this issue of the News-Letter, members will find an announcement and description of this new project.

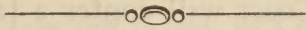
During 1934, the Club issued two books: "Bierce and the Poe Hoax," and "The Heathen Chinee." In contents and beauty of printing both titles fully maintain the high standards that have come to be expected of the Club's publications. The Publication Committee has completed plans for several interesting books to be issued next year.

The Quarterly News-Letter has appeared regularly during 1934. Beginning in March, its size was increased from eight to twelve pages, thus permitting the publication of a number of worth-while articles on books and book collecting in the West. In addition, two souvenirs of printing interest were prepared and presented to members during the year: the first, a broadside in honor of the William Morris Centenary, and the other, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Western printing, a portrait of California's first printer, Agustin V. Zamorano. Early this year, the Club participated, along with five other book collectors' clubs, in an interesting and successful joint sale of publications.

As regards membership, the record for the year has been particularly gratifying. Since January 1, fifty-eight

new members have been added to the roll, more than five times as many as were elected during the same period of 1933. Two factors are responsible for this satisfactory showing: the greater variety of the services now offered by the Club to booklovers, and the cooperation of so many of our members who have told others of the Club's activities and induced them to join.

Encouraging as this 1934 record has been, it is necessary to add that the Club's problems are by no means all solved. For one thing, the sale of publications has not come up to expectations; fewer members have availed themselves of their privilege of purchasing current and earlier books than in former years. Moreover, the Club's increased expenses, incident to its new activities, have more than absorbed the added income from the dues of new members. If the present activities are to be maintained throughout 1935, the membership roll should continue at least the same rate of increase as it has enjoyed during the present year. Because this point cannot be too strongly emphasized, I should like to remind every member that, if he has approved of the Club's activities during the past year, he can express his approval in no better way than by inducing one or more of his friends to take out a membership.



ANNOUNCING THE LETTERS OF WESTERN AUTHORS

SUCCEEDING the California Mining Towns, now completed, the Club in January will inaugurate its second series of gifts to members. The new series, to be distributed in twelve monthly parts throughout 1935, will be entitled The Letters of Western Authors. It will

consist of facsimile reproductions of twelve letters of literary interest, each written by a distinguished Western author of the past, and each accompanied by a text commenting on the letter and its author by a present-day writer of importance. The Club believes that this series, presenting characteristic letters of a group of the important literary figures of the past, with comment by leading contemporary writers, cannot fail to be interesting to every lover of the literature of the Pacific Coast.

The series will be issued in folders of the same size as the Mining Towns. Plans have now been completed for Part One, which will reproduce in facsimile an important two-page letter by the late George Sterling. For the accompanying text, Robinson Jeffers will write on Sterling as a friend and poet. This first folder of the series, linking two distinguished names in American poetry, will reach members early in January. It will be designed and printed by The Grabhorn Press.

The Club hopes to maintain an equal standard of interest in the parts to follow. Comment by members on any phase of the project is invited; in particular, the Club wants suggestions as to what authors members would most like to have represented in the series. Members owning letters of authors whose works are identified with the Pacific Coast will confer a favor by allowing the Club to examine them with a view to their reproduction in the series.

It is suggested that the remaining eleven parts be made up of letters selected from among those of the following authors: Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Joaquin Miller, Clarence King, A. Delano, "John Phoenix," Helen Hunt Jackson, Charles Warren Stoddard, Richard Henry Dana, John Muir, Prentice Mulford, Josiah Royce, Joseph Le

Conte, Edwin Rowland Sill, Ina Coolbrith, Ambrose Bierce, Frank Norris, Jack London, and Mary Austin. In making selections, the Club will be guided by the interest of the available letter as well as the importance of its writer. Where the choice lies between an important letter by a lesser known writer and a perfunctory note by one of greater prominence, the preference will of course be for the former. In choosing contemporary writers to comment on the letters, an effort will be made to select those who are particularly qualified to write of the author whose letter is reproduced.

Typographically, the series will be worthy of its subject-matter. Well-known Pacific Coast printers will design and print the folders, the editions of which will in each case be limited to 500 copies. Slip-cases similar to those prepared for the Mining Towns Series will be made up and supplied to those who wish an attractive and convenient means of preserving their sets.

Fifty duplicate copies of The Letters of Western Authors will be available for sale to members, at \$5.00 each.

THE LITERATURE OF THE HIGH SIERRA

by FRANCIS P. FARQUHAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time, the Club plans to print in the News-Letter authoritative papers on the collection of books relating to special phases of Pacific Coast literature. Mr. Farquhar, author of the following survey of the important books on the Sierra Nevada, is President of the Sierra Club and an authority on the history and literature of the mountains of California.

IN writing of the Sierra Nevada of California it is necessary to differentiate between the foothill region, the land of gold, and the High Sierra, the land of forests, can-

yons, alpine meadows, and lofty peaks. In the larger sense the Sierra Nevada may claim the stories of Bret Harte and the verse of Joaquin Miller, although why the latter has been designated "the Poet of the Sierras" I never could make out. It is of the literature of the High Sierra, however, that I wish to write. By far the larger part of what has been written about this region is narration and description of an informative character. Verse, essays, and fiction are rare, although not entirely lacking. Nevertheless, such is the charm of this region, such is its inspiration, that one is encouraged to believe that in the future its features will find expression to an increasing extent in imaginative literature.

Leaving at one side the purely scientific publications, let us see what books relating to the High Sierra should be included in a well-chosen library. At the head of the list I should place John Muir's "My First Summer in the Sierra." Here will be found the freshest and most inspired of Muir's descriptions. The book is found in the several sets of Muir's works that are available, and the first edition, that of June 1911, has not yet become a rarity. Next, one must inevitably choose Clarence King's "Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada." I might be inclined to rank it first if it were not for the fact that its descriptions are in many instances deliberately overdrawn and its events occasionally fictionized. Nevertheless, King carries us with him by sheer force of personality so that one is often satisfied with the thought that the Sierra ought to be as he described it, even if one's experience tells one that it is not. The mountain-climbing adventures must be taken with many grains of salt. The first edition of King's "Mountaineering" appeared early in 1872. There are several variations with the same

date, among them an English printing. Whether these were considered by the publishers to be second and third editions, I do not know; at least, I have never seen a copy designated "second" or "third." In 1874, there appeared a new edition, with additional matter on Mt. Whitney and two folding maps. This, in my opinion, is the most desirable edition. It was reprinted without change, excepting for publisher's imprint and quality of paper, in editions designated "fifth," "sixth," etc., up to "ninth," with dates from 1875 to 1889. There is also an English edition of 1874. In 1902 Scribner's published a genuinely "new" edition, reset, with a few slight changes, and without the maps. This edition has been reprinted from time to time. With these two books to start with, one can no longer delay the inclusion of Muir's "The Mountains of California," published first in 1894 and again, in an enlarged edition with new illustrations, in 1911.

Following closely upon the works of Muir and King is the delightful "A Journal of Ramblings Through the High Sierra of California by the University Excursion Party," written by the elder Joseph LeConte. This was first published in 1875 in a very small edition, probably not much over a hundred copies, with original photographic prints as illustrations. This little book in its blue binding is a great rarity and one of the most desirable books on the High Sierra. Copies occasionally appear at prices varying from \$15 to \$25, depending upon condition. It was reprinted in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* in 1900, but in this form it is quite as scarce as the original. Fortunately it is now available in a very attractive format, published by the Sierra Club in 1930, price \$2.00.

From this point on, the selection is not so obvious.

Stewart Edward White's books: "The Mountains" (1904), "The Pass" (1906), "The Cabin" (1911), are full of the spirit of the High Sierra and should certainly be on the list. "Yosemite Trails" (1911), by J. Smeaton Chase, although somewhat out-of-date, is still worthy of a place. Of quite another sort is Mary Austin's "The Flock" (1906), indicating what can be done with the Sierra scene by a writer of great ability.

There is a group of books dealing with Yosemite Valley that includes "The Discovery of the Yosemite," by L. H. Bunnell (first edition, 1880; second, no date; third, 1892; fourth, 1911) and "Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California," by J. M. Hutchings (first, 1860). The latter was reprinted from time to time with additions, until superseded in 1886 by "In the Heart of the Sierras." In this group belong the various editions of J. D. Whitney's Yosemite books; first, "The Yosemite Book" (1868), illustrated with actual photographs, 250 copies only; followed by "The Yosemite Guide Book" (1869; also imprints of 1870), with maps in two pockets; and by the "pocket editions" of 1871 and 1874, respectively, the latter the more desirable. Although these guide-books are long out of date, they have a literary quality that preserves their value. Another Yosemite book of interest is "Granite Crags" written by Lady Gordon-Cumming during her sojourn in the Valley in the early '80s, and published in Edinburgh in 1884 with photogravure illustrations. It was reprinted in 1886 with fewer and less attractive illustrations. "Yosemite Legends" by Bertha H. Smith (1904) and "The Dawn of the World" by C. Hart Merriam (1910), present the Indian legends and mythology in two highly contrasting ways. Verse inspired by the Yosemite and High

Sierra is frequent, but seldom memorable. I consider the best example to be George Sterling's "Yosemite: An Ode," published in 1916.

Greatest of all repositories of the miscellaneous shorter articles that have been written about the Sierra Nevada is the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. This has been published continuously since 1893. For many years there were two magazine numbers a year, but for the past twenty years only one magazine number has appeared each year. Many of the earlier numbers are extremely scarce, particularly the first four volumes. There is a check list of all publications of the Sierra Club in the *Bulletin* for June 1934.

This list of books for a High Sierra library should not be concluded without mention of a few curious and unusual books. Foremost of these is a guide book issued by Elliott & Co. in 1883, entitled "Guide to the Grand and Sublime Scenery of the Sierra Nevada." It is based largely on accounts furnished by three men, Wallace, Wales, and Wright, who visited Mt. Whitney and the Kern River country in 1881. The lithographed covers and some of the illustrations are decidedly quaint. This book is very scarce indeed; I have never seen a copy for sale. Another unusual book is "Zanita," a novel of the Yosemite written by Therese Yelverton, Viscountess Avonmore, published in 1872. Two foreign language books deserve mention, namely: "Dans les Sierras de Californie," by Jean Gontard, Paris 1923, and "The Conquest of Mount Whitney" by Shuki Nakamura, Tokyo 1931.

One might continue the list, but with these books to start with—or, all save the rarest of them—the collector will have become sufficiently familiar with the field to choose his own additions.

ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP

DURING the past three months, seventeen new members have been added to the roll of the Club. The total number elected since January 1 is fifty-eight, an average of slightly more than five a month. Beginning with this issue of the News-Letter, the names of new members, and of their sponsors, will be printed each quarter. The following were elected since September 1:

| <i>Member</i> | | <i>Sponsor</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| George S. Armstrong | New York, N. Y. | Secretary |
| Clarence A. Bowman | San Francisco, Cal. | Secretary |
| F. A. Collman | San Francisco, Cal. | John Henry Nash |
| George E. Hess, Jr. | St. Paul, Minn. | Secretary |
| Easley S. Jones | Santa Barbara, Cal. | Secretary |
| Miss Rosalind A. Keep | Mills College, Cal. | Albert M. Bender |
| Mrs. Lora J. Knight | Santa Barbara, Cal. | Dr. Aurelia H. Reinhardt |
| Walter Z. Kolasa | Berkeley, Cal. | Samuel T. Farquhar |
| Alfred Matthews | San Francisco, Cal. | Flodden W. Heron |
| Mrs. Oscar E. Mertz | Philadelphia, Pa. | Dr. Aurelia H. Reinhardt |
| L. M. Morris | Modesto, Cal. | Miss Cora A. Beard |
| Louis O'Brien | Berkeley, Cal. | Albert M. Bender |
| Ward Richie | Los Angeles, Cal. | Secretary |
| Mrs. Leon Roos | San Francisco, Cal. | Albert M. Bender |
| Mrs. F. Schloss | San Francisco, Cal. | Albert M. Bender |
| Mrs. Irving J. Sturgis | Pasadena, Cal. | Roy V. Sowers |
| Mrs. Eleanor H. Williams | San Francisco, Cal. | Secretary |

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

by ALBERT M. BENDER, Chairman, Publication Committee

SINCE the appearance of the September number of this quarterly, two publications have been added to the Club's list. "Bierce and the Poe Hoax," by Carroll D. Hall, with an introduction by Carey McWilliams and illustrations from unpublished letters and photographs, appeared in October. The book, charmingly printed by The Windsor Press, and selling for \$3.00, tells the story of a curious and little-known episode in the literary his-

tory of San Francisco during the '90s. It would make an unusual and suitable gift to anyone interested in Western literature. Members who have not yet placed orders should not fail to do so soon, for the edition consists of only 250 copies.

The Club's Christmas publication for 1934, just published, is John Henry Nash's printing of Bret Harte's humorous classic, "The Heathen Chinee." The poem itself, Ina Coolbrith's introduction, Robert E. Cowan's bibliography, and Phil Little's spirited and amusing drawings have provided Mr. Nash with material from which he has made an original and beautiful volume. Folded and bound in the Chinese manner, with a cover of blue Chinese paper and an outer wrapper of natural linen, its effect is as charming as it is unusual. Members wishing copies for their own shelves or for Christmas presents will assure early delivery by placing orders now. The price is \$15.00.

While on the subject of Christmas gifts, I wish to remind members that this year, as in the past, the Club recommends the use of its publications for gift purposes. All the books on its list are products of the foremost fine presses of the West, and the twenty-seven titles now available offer a wide variety both as regards subject and price. Moreover, Club publications are sold only to members, so there is little likelihood of gifts being duplicated from other sources; finally, they are sold at cost. Members who fail to purchase the publications miss sharing one of the most important and worthwhile of the Club's services, and—as scores have already discovered—this service is particularly useful in the crowded, pre-Holiday season.

For members who cannot conveniently call at the

Club's office and make a personal selection, a list of the available publications has been prepared and will be supplied promptly on request. If desired, books intended as gifts will be sent direct from the Club, with the giver's card enclosed. Those who have not previously availed themselves of this holiday service are invited to do so this year.

Meantime, plans are being completed for several publications to appear during 1935. A full report on these will be made in the March issue of the News-Letter.

Miscellany

¶ Requests for back numbers of the News-Letter arrive from time to time and indicate that some members think well enough of the quarterly to wish to preserve a complete file. Unfortunately, no copies now remain of any of the four numbers of Volume I. Copies of Numbers 1 and 2 of Volume II will be sent members on request as long as the limited supply lasts.

¶ Recently the Club sent out (with the final two folders of the Mining Towns) a letter inviting members to present membership in the Club as a Christmas gift to bookloving friends. As a special inducement, a set of the Mining Towns was offered to each of the first thirty to receive such membership. A gratifying response has already been received. Those members who overlooked the leaflet describing the plan, and who—with Christmas growing steadily nearer—may now wish to take advantage of it, will be supplied with full information promptly on request.

¶ Now that the Mining Towns Series has been completed, it is suggested that members check over their sets to see if any of the parts are missing. The Club has on hand a small supply of duplicate copies of all the parts except Number One. Any of the remaining parts will be supplied to members at fifty cents each. Those who have not yet purchased slip-cases are reminded that these will be made up to order. The price for cases with all-cloth binding is \$2.00; for half-leather, \$3.00.

A SELF-PORTRAIT

OF

Captain Agustin V. Zamorano

1798-1842

THIS SELF-PORTRAIT of Don Agustin Vicente Zamorano was probably made sometime between the spring of 1830 and the autumn of 1836, for family tradition states that it was done while he was living at Monterey. During these years, Zamorano was the Executive Secretary of the Territory of Alta California and, from March 1831, Commandant of the Presidio of Monterey. From December 1831 to January 1833, he was Acting Governor of the Territory. To him, in June 1834, was delivered the first printing press to be set up and operated in California.

The following account of the circumstances under which the portrait was painted has been preserved by Zamorano's descendants. Telling his wife one day that he was going hunting for doves, he went instead to a favored spot, carrying a mirror, which he hung from the limb of a tree and, by its aid, proceeded to make this self-portrait. Upon his return, he handed the finished work to his wife with the remark: "Here is your dove!"

The portrait presently came into the possession of Don Agustin's younger daughter, Doña Eulalia Doro-tea Zamorano de Estudillo, of San Luis Obispo. Unfortunately, it was destroyed when her home there was burned about 1905. This reproduction is from a photograph of the original now in the possession of Doña Eulalia's daughter, Mrs. Maria Anais Throop, by whose kind permission it is here used.

GEORGE L. HARDING



Agustín P. Zamorano.

*325 copies printed for members of The Book Club
of California in commemoration of the establish-
ment, (June 1834) by Captain Agustin V. Zamo-
rano of the first printing press in Alta California*